

CHAPTER V

FINANCE AND JOURNALISM

1825

The law was to be abandoned, but what was to take its place? Conscious of extraordinary powers, and resolved at all hazards to find a field for their exercise, the young Disraeli was not to be bound in the trammels of any of the conventional professions. His first attempt in literature had failed and his aims, though not yet definitely political, were now clearly directed towards the world of action. We can imagine that, like Vivian Grey —

In the plenitude of his ambition he stopped one day to enquire in what manner he could obtain his magnificent ends: — 'The Bar—pooh! law and bad jokes till we are forty; and then with the most brilliant success, the prospect of gout and a coronet. Besides, to succeed as an advocate, I must be a great lawyer, and to be a great lawyer, I must give up my chance of being a great man. The Services in war time are fit only for desperadoes (and that truly am I) ; but, in peace, are fit only for fools. The Church is more rational. Let me see : I should certainly like to act Wolsey, but the thousand and one chances against me! and truly I feel *my* destiny should not be on a chance. Were I the son of a Millionaire, or a noble, I might have *all*. Curse on my lot! that the want of a few rascal counters, and the possession of a little rascal blood should mar my fortunes !'¹

¹ *Vivian Grey*, Bk. I.
ch. 9. 54